

**2020-0005-INVI-P – Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC)
“Preservation Policy and Standards”: Not Substantiated**

On March 3, 2020, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from the Library of Congress (LOC) OIG which reported that a retired LOC employee filed a complaint with the LOC OIG against the Librarian, LOC. This complaint had two allegations: 1) according to the retired LOC employee, the Librarian authorized the removal of the historic Center Desk from the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building with plans to replace it with a large circular window in the floor (“oculus”); and 2) the Librarian’s illegal disregard of historic preservation requirements would entail a major and unnecessary waste of tens of millions of tax payers dollars. The LOC OIG referred the first allegation to the AOC OIG for investigation due to a suspected violation of AOC Order 37-1, Preservation Policy and Standards, which requires coordination with the AOC prior to any structural changes. Neither the AOC nor its employees were determined to be subjects of these allegations.

Final Management Action: The AOC OIG did not substantiate that the Librarian violated AOC Order 37-1, Preservation Policy and Standards. The AOC OIG coordinated with AOC senior executives and a preservation subject matter expert who provided several memoranda detailing coordination between members of the AOC senior staff, the LOC’s “Visitors Experience Master Plan” (VEMP) design team for the Library, and the Librarian. The memoranda documented the AOC’s concerns and reasoning for not supporting the oculus component of the VEMP while deferring to Congress the decision to include or omit the oculus. No determination or final design has been approved and the current Visitor Experience is under review and proposal. The complaint that the Librarian violated the AOC’s Preservation Policy and Standards requirements, which required coordination with the AOC prior to any structural changes, were unfounded and therefore, the allegation is not substantiated. Further, this investigation did not substantiate a violation of any AOC policy on behalf of the AOC or any of its employees. The case is closed.